with the provisions of this part in effect at the time of application for approval of package design. These packages will be accepted as having been fabricated and assembled in accordance with a quality assurance program that satisfies the provisions of paragraph (b) of this section.

(f) *Previously approved programs.* A Commission-approved quality assurance program that satisfies the applicable criteria of Appendix B of Part 50 of this chapter, and that is established, maintained, and executed with regard to transport packages, will be accepted as satisfying the requirements of paragraph (b) of this section. Before first use, the licensee shall notify the Director, Spent Fuel Project Office, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, of its intent to apply its previously approved Appendix B program to transportation activities. The licensee shall identify the program by date of submittal to the Commission, Docket Number, and date of Commission approval.

(g) *Radiography containers.* A program for transport container inspection and maintenance limited to radiographic exposure devices, source changers, or packages transporting these devices and meeting the requirements of § 34.31(b) or equivalent Agreement State requirement, is deemed to satisfy the requirements of § 71.12(b) and 71.101(b) of this chapter.

[60 FR 50264, Sept. 28, 1995, as amended at 62 FR 28973, May 28, 1997; 67 FR 3586, Jan. 25, 2002; 68 FR 58818, Oct. 10, 2003]

§ 71.103 Quality assurance organization.

(a) The licensee [3] shall be responsible for the establishment and execution of the quality assurance program. The licensee may delegate to others, such as contractors, agents, or consultants, the work of establishing and executing the quality assurance program, or any part of the quality assurance program, but shall retain responsibility for the pro-

gram. The licensee shall clearly establish and delineate, in writing, the authority and duties of persons and organizations performing activities affecting the safety-related functions of structures, systems, and components. These activities include performing the functions associated with attaining quality objectives and the quality assurance functions.

(b) The quality assurance functions are—

(1) Assuring that an appropriate quality assurance program is established and effectively executed; and

(2) Verifying, by procedures such as checking, auditing, and inspection, that activities affecting the safety-related functions have been performed correctly.

(c) The persons and organizations performing quality assurance functions must have sufficient authority and organizational freedom to—

(1) Identify quality problems;

(2) Initiate, recommend, or provide solutions; and

(3) Verify implementation of solutions.

(d) The persons and organizations performing quality assurance functions shall report to a management level that assures that the required authority and organizational freedom, including sufficient independence from cost and schedule, when opposed to safety considerations, are provided.

(e) Because of the many variables involved, such as the number of personnel, the type of activity being performed, and the location or locations where activities are performed, the organizational structure for executing the quality assurance program may take various forms, provided that the persons and organizations assigned the quality assurance functions have the required authority and organizational freedom.

(f) Irrespective of the organizational structure, the individual(s) assigned the responsibility for assuring effective execution of any portion of the quality assurance program, at any location where activities subject to this section are being performed, must have direct access to the levels of management necessary to perform this function.

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[3] While the term ''licensee'' is used in these criteria, the requirements are applicable to whatever design, fabrication, assembly, and testing of the package is accomplished with respect to a package prior to the time a package approval is issued.